

## HB 938 -- Official State Technical Codes

Sponsor: Schupp

This bill specifies that beginning January 1, 2014, certain codes including specified electrical, building, residential, fire, plumbing, mechanical, fuel gas, and property maintenance codes will be deemed the official state codes. Beginning January 1, 2014, all jurisdictions may adopt and enforce the state codes by reference, and each fire protection district that adopts or enforces a technical code or issues construction permits must adopt by ordinance the Missouri fire code or any version of the International Fire Code that is no more than one version behind the official state codes and may adopt other Missouri state codes by ordinance. No agricultural building as defined in the bill will be subject to any official state code.

Each county, municipality, or fire protection district that adopts a state code must remain no more than one code version behind the official state codes. These provisions cannot limit the authority of a jurisdiction to adopt a code that is equivalent to or has higher standards than the official state codes or to amend, delete, or make additions to an official state code in its own jurisdiction. In the case of any conflict between a state code and other sections of law, the state code adopted under these provisions will apply.

The State Code Commission is established within the Department of Public Safety consisting of nine members as specified in the bill who are to be appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The State Code Manager and State Fire Marshal will serve as ex-officio members. The powers and duties of the commission are specified, including the appointment of the State Code Manager who is to review, maintain, and in conjunction with the commission, amend the official state codes. The State Fire Marshal must review, maintain, and amend the official state fire code.

Each county, municipality, and fire protection district must enforce the state codes within its jurisdiction through inspection services by its employees, intergovernmental agreements, or third-party inspectors who are approved and registered by the commission and may be charged an annual registration fee of up to \$25 by the commission which will be deposited into the newly created State Code Fund.